

That she may quickly come. By my old beard,
And euerie haire that's on't, *Helen* that's dead
Was a sweet creature: such a ring as this,
The last that ere I tooke her leaue at Court,
I saw vpon her finger.

Ber. Hers it was not.

King. Now pray you let me see it. For mine eye,
While I was speaking, oft was fasten'd too't:
This Ring was mine, and when I gaue it *Hellen*,
I bad her if her fortunes euer stode
Necessitied to helpe, that by this token
I would releue her. Had you that craft to reauce her
Of what should steele her most?

Ber. My gracious Soueraigne,
How ere it pleases you to take it so,
The ring was neuer hers.

Old La. Sonne, on my life
I haue seene her weare it, and she reckon'd it
At her liues rate.

Las. I am sure I saw her weare it.

Ber. You are deceiu'd my Lord, she neuer saw it:
In Florence was it from a casement throwne mee,
Wrap'd in a paper, which contain'd the name
Of her that threw it: Noble she was, and thought
I stood in ag'd, but when I had subscrib'd
To mine owne fortune, and inform'd her fully,
I could not answer in that course of Honour
As she had made the ouerture, she cast
In heauie satisfaction, and would neuer
Receiue the Ring againe.

Kim. *Plutus* himselfe,
That knowes the tinct and multiplying med'cine,
Hath not in natures myserie more science,
Then I haue in this Ring. 'Twas mine, 'twas *Hellen*,
Who euer gaue it you: then if you know
That you are well acquainted with your selfe,
Confesse 'twas hers, and by what rough enforcement
You got it from her. She call'd the Saints to suretie,
That she would neuer put it from her finger,
Vnlesse she gaue it to your selfe in bed,
Where you haue neuer comen or senten'd
Vpon her great disaster.

Ber. She neuer saw it.

Kim. Thou speak'st it falsely: as I loue mine Honor,
And mak'st connecturall feares to come into me,
Which I would faine shut out, if it should proue
That thou art so inhumane, 'twill not proue so:
And yet I know not, thou didst hate her deadly,
And she is dead, which nothing but to close
Her eyes my selfe, could win me to beleue,
More then to see this Ring. Take him away,
My fore-past proofes, how ere the matter fall
Shall taze my feares of little vanitie,
Hauing vainly fear'd too little: Away with him,
Wee'l sift this matter further.

Ber. If you shall proue
This Ring was euer hers, you shall as easie
Proue that I husbanded her bed in Florence,
Where yet she neuer was.

Enter a Gentleman.

King. I am wrapt in dismal thinking.

Gen. Gracious Soueraigne,

Whether I haue bene too blame or no, I know not,
Here's a petition from a Florentine,
Who hath for foure or fve remoues come short,
To tender it her selfe. I vnderooke it,

Vanquish'd thereto by the faire grace and speech
Of the poore suppliant, who by this I know
Is heere attending: her businesse lookes in her
With an importing visage, and she told me
In a sweet verball breefe, it did concerne
Your Highnesse with her selfe.

A Letter.

Upon his many protestations to marrie mee when his wife was
dead, I blissh to say it, he wonne me. Now is the Count *Raf.*
fillion a Widdower, his vovues are forfeited to mee, and my
honors payed to him. Hee stole from Florence, taking
leaue, and I follow him to his Countrey for Iustice: Grant
it me, O King, in you it best lies, otherwise a seducer
riseth, and a poore Maid is vndone.

Las. I will buy me a sonne in Law in a faire, and toyle
for this. Ile none of him.

Kim. The heauens haue thought well on thee *Las.*,
To bring forth this discourtie, seeke these suitors:
Go speedily, and bring againe the Count.

Enter Bertram.

I am a feard the life of *Hellen* (*Ladie*)
Was fowly snatcht.

Old La. Now iustice on the doers.

King. I wonder sir, sir, wiuers are monstres to you,
And that you flye them as you sweare them Lordship,
Yet you desire to marry. What woman's that?

Enter Widdow, Diana, and Parrolles.

Dia. I am my Lord a wretched Florentine,
Deriued from the ancient Capilet,
My suite as I do vnderstand you know,
And therefore know how farre I may be pittied.
Wid. I am her Mother sir, whose age and honour
Both suffer vnder this complaint we bring,
And both shall cease, without your remedie.

King. Come herther Count, do you know these Wo-

men?

Ber. My Lord, I neither can nor will denie,

But that I know them, do they charge me further?

Dia. Why do you looke so strange vpon your wife?

Ber. She's none of mine my Lord.

Dia. If you shall marrie

You giue away this hand, and that is mine,

You giue away heauens vovues, and those are mine:

You giue away my selfe, which is knowne mine:

For I by vow am so embodied yours,

That she which marries you, must marrie me,

Either both or none.

Las. your reputation comes too short for my daugh-

ter, you are no husband for her.

Ber. My Lord, this is a fond and desp'rate creature,

Whom sometime I haue laugh'd with: Let your highnes

Lay a more noble thought vpon mine honour,

Then for to thinke that I would sinke it heere.

Kim. Sir for my thoughts, you haue them ill to friend,

Till your deeds gaine them fairer: proue your honor,

Then in my thought it lies.

Dia. Good my Lord,

Aske him vpon his oath, if hee do's thinke

He had not my virginity.

Kim. What saist thou to her?

Ber. She's impudent my Lord,

And was a common gamester to the Campe,

Dia. He do's me wrong my Lord: If I were so,

He might haue bought me at a common price.

Do not beleuee him. O behold this Ring,
Whose high respect and rich validitie
Did lacke a Paralell: yet for all that
He gaue it to a Commoner a'th Campe
If I be one.

Comm. He blushes, and 'tis hit:
Offixe preceeding Ancestors, that femme
Confer'd by testament to'th sequent issue
Hath it beene owed and worne. This is his wife,
That Ring's a thousand proofes.

King. Me thought you saide

You saw one heere in Court could witnesse it.

Dia. I did my Lord, but loath am to produce

So bad an instrument, his names *Parrolles*.

Las. I saw the man to day if man he bee.

Kim. Finde him, and bring him hether.

Ref. What of him?

He's quoted for a most pe fidious slave

With all the spots a'th world, taxt and debosh'd,

Whose nature sickens: but to speake a truth,

Am I, or that or this for what he'll vtter,

That will speake any thing.

Kim. She hath that Ring of yours.

Ref. I thinke she has; certaine it is I lyk'd her,

And boarded her i'th wanton way of youth:

She knew her distance, and did angle for mee,

Madding my easernes with her restraint,

As all impediments in fancies course

Are motives of more fancie, and in fine,

Her insuite comming with her moderne grace,

Subdu'd me to her rate, she got the Ring,

And I had that which any inferiour might

At Market price haue bought.

Dia. I must be patient:

You that haue turn'd off a first so noble wife,

May iustly dye me. I pray you yet,

(Since you lacke vertue, I will loose a husband)

Send for your Ring, I will returne it home,

And giue me mine againe.

Ref. I haue it not.

Kim. What Ring was yours I pray you?

Dia. Sir much like the same vpon your finger.

Kim. Know you this Ring, this Ring was his of late.

Dia. And this was it I gaue him being a bed.

Kim. The story then goes false, you threw it him

Out of a Casement.

Dia. I haue spoke the truth. *Enter Parrolles.*

Ref. My Lord, I do confesse the ring was hers.

Kim. You boggle shrewdly, euery feather starts you:

Is this the man you speake of?

Dia. I, my Lord.

Kim. Tell me sirrah, but tell me true I charge you,

Not fearing the displeasure of your master:

Which on your iust proceeding, Ile keepe off,

By him and by this woman heere, what know you?

Par. So please your Maiesty, my master hath bin an

honourable Gentleman. Trickes hee hath had in him,

which Gentlemen haue.

Kim. Come, come, to'th purpose: Did hee loue this

woman?

Par. Faith sir he did loue her, but how.

Kim. How I pray you?

Par. He did loue her sir, as a Gent. loues a Woman.

Kim. How is that?

Par. Helou'd her sir, and lou'd her not.

Kim. As thou art a knaue and no knaue, what an equi-

uocall Companion is this?

Par. I am a poore man, and

mand.

Las. Hee's a good drummer

Orator.

Dia. Do you know he pre

Par. Faith I know more th

Kim. But wilt thou not spe

Par. Yes so please your Ma

them as I said, but more then

deede he was madde for her, a

Limbo, and of Furies, and I kn

that credit with them at that t

going to bed, and of other m

marriage, and things which w

speake of, therefore I will not

Kim. Thou hast spoken all a

say they are married, but thou a

therefore stand aside. This Ri

Dia. I my good Lord.

Kim. Where did you buy it?

Dia. It was not giuen me, n

Kim. Who lent it you?

Dia. It was not lent me nei

Kim. Where did you finde

Dia. I found it not.

Kim. If it were yours by non

How could you giue it him?

Dia. I neuer gaue it him.

Las. This womans an easie

off and on at pleasure.

Kim. This Ring was mine, I

Dia. It might be yours or h

Kim. Take her away, I do n

To prison with her: and away v

Vnlesse thou tellst me where th

Thou diest within this houre.

Dia. Ile neuer tell you.

Kim. Take her away.

Dia. Ile put in baile my lied

Kim. I thinke thee now som

Dia. By loue if euer I knew

Kim. Wherefore hast thou

Dia. Because he's guiltie, a

He knowes I am no Maid, and

He sweare I am a Maid, and he

Great King I am no strumpet, b

I am either Maid, or else this o

Kim. She does abuse our eare

Dia. Good mother fetch my

The Jeweller that owes the Rin

And he shall surety me. But for

Who hath abus'd me as he know

Though yet he neuer harm'd me

He knowes himselfe my bed he

And at that time he got his wife

Dead though she be, she feelles h

So there's my riddle, one that's

And now behold the meaning.

Enter Hellen and

Kim. Is there no exorcist

Beguiles the truer Office of mine

Is't recall that I see?

Hel. No my good Lord,

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